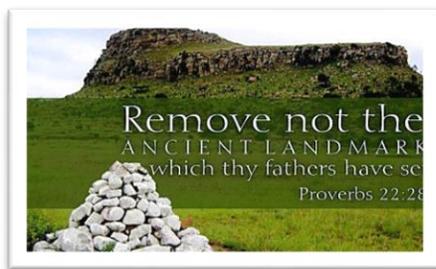


THE RESTRAINTS OF THE REDEEMER (Part 1)

by Phil Sessa, July 1, 2020



The World went into an upheaval when COVID-19 hit the ground running, but it seems that we have gone from Corona to chaos! In the recent sermon titled “*Who’s to blame for the Riots?*” by John MacArthur he states, “We are obviously living in very bizarre times that have produced massive fear and confusion.” He mentioned that “God has instituted four restraints of authority”, three of which are God ordained institutions. These restraints are the conscience (personal authority), family (paternal authority), government (social authority) and the church (spiritual authority). The world is trying to tear down the restraints of The Redeemer without having any clue as to why He instituted them in the first place.

Proverbs 22:28 reads, “Do not remove the ancient landmark Which your fathers have set.” The legal expression of this prohibition is echoed from Deuteronomy 19:14. The immediate context of this verse prohibits violating ancient landmarks and the reason that they were sacred and untouchable because of their antiquity (Judges 11; 1 Kings 21:4). Private land boundaries were marked by stone pillars and the command was not to remove them. G.K. Chesterton said, “**Before you remove any fence, always pause long enough to ask why it was put there in the first place.**” This in not being considered by those that want to tear down institutions because “their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things (Phil 3:19), and because, “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned (1 Cor 2:14).”

The first restraint is the conscience which is a personal restraint. It is like a barking dog that awakens and warns his master of an intruder in the home about to murder and pillage all of his livelihood. Samuel Davis stated, “Conscience is *a serpent in his bosom*, which bites and gnaws his heart; and he can no more avoid it, than he can fly from himself!” Oswald Chamber said, “Conscience is the internal perception of God’s moral Law.”

God has placed an alarm in the heart of humanity. Paul writes, “**They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them**” (Romans 2:15). We see many that are full of guilt, anxiety, fear, worry, dread, and even having panic attacks. Samuel Davies again stated in “*Divine Mercy to Mourning Penitents*”, “The principal means which God uses in conversion, is that of conscience. It is conscience which makes the sinner sensible of his misery and scourges him. The *lashes of a guilty conscience* are intolerable; and some under them have chosen strangling and suicide, rather than life.

It is like the nerve that a dentist touches with his piercing tools to bring a realization of the need for a root canal. It is what awakened the prodigal son when he came to himself, because he did not come to himself by himself. It is a powerful ally within the sinner that a witness of Christ must touch with the sharp instrument of God’s Law to awaken the sinner to his plight of his own sin and call him to run to the Father as did the prodigal.

Davies again states, “But if you now allow it to pain you with *beneficial* remorse, and awaken you to a tender sensibility of your danger—then *this internal enemy* will in the end become your bosom friend, will support you under every calamity, and be your faithful companion and guardian through the most dangerous paths of life.”

No man can say he does not know that it is wrong to murder, steal, commit adultery, arson, and destroy the property of others. This knowledge is written in bold print on his heart, his conscience bearing witness. However, we see much violation of conscience at this time, with the looting, rioting, breaking into and stealing from stores, burning and destroying other people’s property, murdering (including abortion on demand), assaulting of citizens and police officers. It seems that many have violated the conscience, and become numb to it, which Paul likens “**through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared** (1 Tim 4:2), like a man taking the batteries out of the smoke alarm so as not to warn of danger. Paul Tournier, the Swiss psychiatrist, observed, “A diffuse and vague guilt feeling kills the personality, whereas the conviction of sin gives life to it.” God has given light to every man in the sinner’s conscience. There is no middle ground, it will *awaken and summon* you either to your conversion--or condemnation! Joseph Alliene stated that many miserably mistake a troubled conscience which leads to conviction for conversion. “Cain might have passes for a convert among these, because he ran up and down the world like a man distracted under the rage of a guilty conscience till, with building and business, he has worn it away (Gen 4:13-14ff).”

Davies again states, “Let not such of you as have never been tortured with its remorse, congratulate yourselves upon your happiness, for you are not innocents! Your conscience will not always sleep! It will not always lie torpid and inactive, like a snake benumbed with cold, in your bosom!

When a godly man has sinned and his conscience strikes him, he will respond as David following his adultery with Bathsheba, with repentance toward God.

The second restraint of The Redeemer is the God ordained institution of the family (a paternal authority). As we look at God’s Ten Commandments, we see the first table of God’s Law displays the four vertical commandments concerning man’s relationship to God. The second table of God’s Law contains commandments concerning man’s relationship with man. The lead batter on that list of on horizontal commandments, emphasizes family, specifically children being commanded to honor their father and mother. Besides preaching the gospel as of first importance (1 Cor 15:1), there is nothing more important the church can teach a child than to honor their parents, which is in essence an illustration of the Gospel.

Voddie Baucham states, “Show me a child that does not yield to and submit to their parent’s authority and I’ll show you a child there is not Spirit filled.” We have a whole generation that have been directed to the public-school system, coaches, and children and youth pastors for guidance. But we have not pointed them to parental authority and we’re paying a weighty price for it! Voddie again shares that “the measure of biblical obedience upon children is children doing what they’re told, when they’re told and with the respectful attitude.” The spiritual temperature of a child is seen by their obedience to their parents.

Notice the emphasis is not their academic performance (grades), level of intellect, athletic, musical, or artistic abilities, their winsome personality or level of popularity. All of those things are good and fine in the proper context, because God gave gifts and talents to children. However, these are not the measure according to God’s standard of obedience.

In an article posted on Sovereign Nations, it states, “The group known as Black Lives Matter started by three by [three women](#), two of whom identify as “queer”: Patrisse Khan-Cullors, Opal Tometi, and Alicia Garza state on its “What We Believe” page, [describes](#) itself as a movement “to fight for freedom, liberation, and justice,” but its definition of those terms includes radical changes to basic societal norms. “We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement,” the site declares, “by supporting each other as extended families and ‘villages’ that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.” The word “fathers” is deliberately excluded, replaced by the gender-neutral “parents” despite already naming “mothers” as pillars of the family.”

This group is against fathers, because they are against God The Father who created Adam to be the first father, and who Himself instructs how fathers are to parent their children along with mothers. Paul wrote, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4).” How can fathers do this if they are not in the home? Our government through the welfare system rewards many to not have fathers in the home, who is generally the main provider in the home, and replaces them with welfare checks. Many of these non-existent “fathers” are nothing more than sperm donors, that can have their children provided for by the government while they assume no responsibility. “In the United States, about 25 million children are fatherless (Angela Lu, “Boys to men”, World, June 16, 2012)”. “85% of all youths in prison come from fatherless homes – 20 times the average. (Fulton Co. Georgia, Texas Dept. of Correction)”, which did not have the evil within them restrained. Fathers are to be godly examples in the lives of their children, of God The Father. Only Christ the Savior can provide salvation to children, but fathers are given the role to nurture and point their children toward The Savior and restrain the evil in their young hearts. This is why Solomon wrote concerning young people, **“Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”**(Ecclesiastes 12:1)

Voddie again states, “We don’t ask police officers to change hearts, but to restrain evildoers! And that’s precisely what parents are charged to do.” Parents are to make of first importance, the training of their children’s heart toward the worship of God, all other components of life are to be subservient to this. And parents represent God’s authority in the lives of their children. To teach a child to keep his eye on the ball and not keep his eye on Christ makes one a failure as a parent. Yet how many ungodly groups are trying to tear down the family?

What are the home lives of those in our city streets there were rioting, looting, destroying property, stealing, assaulting, murdering, etc...? I have to imagine that they did not have fathers in their lives that restrained their evil? It only took one generation, from Adam and Eve for Cain to murder his own brother Able. David wrote in Psalm 51:5, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.” And that heart of Cain if not restrained will manifest through the actions of our children if we as parents don’t restrain their evil. Let us be faithful to the conscience God gave us, and the family which He ordained. To be continued.

Sources:

- [Who’s to Blame for the Riots](#)
- [The Centrality of the Home in the Evangelism and Discipleship of the next Generation/](#)
- [Divine Mercy to Mourning Penitents](#)
- [Father-Factor Executive Synopsis](#)
- [Black Lives Matter Aims to ‘Disrupt’ Family Structure, Exclude Fathers](#)